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North Carolina Education Lottery

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**
Date: Feb. 3, 2006

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Retailers from Murphy to Manteo apply to cash in on the NC Education Lottery

RALEIGH – North Carolina retailers from the mountains to the coast are buzzing at the chance to be among the first ever to sell North Carolina Education Lottery (NCEL) tickets. The deadline to be guaranteed a chance to be able to sell tickets on the expected launch date of March 30 ends today (Friday) with already approximately 4,000 businesses submitting applications.

"The stacks of mail are just piling in by the moment," said Tom Shaheen, executive director. "It's great to see that those interested in being able to sell lottery tickets range from national chain retail stores, gas stations to individually owned general stores at every corner of the state."

He added, that it's not just convenience stores or grocery stores getting in on the game, but a number of specialty stores have applied as well. Some of those stores include Pelican Bookstore in Sunset Beach, Enchanted Gardens in Bath, Mr. Jim's Pizza in Charlotte and Nate's Country Store in Murphy.

The NCEL staff are so excited by the interest retailers are showing in the effort to generate funds for education. Proceeds from ticket sales will go to the state for education to be used to help reduce class size, fund school construction and provide college scholarships to need-based individuals.

About 20 temporary employees are busy inputting the applicant store information into a database and more will be added, if deemed necessary. The database will be used to track where each application is in the process. Each application must be processed through Alcohol Law Enforcement for a criminal background check, a credit agency check and through North Carolina's Department of Revenue for tax purposes.

The NCEL will continue to accept applications indefinitely from interested businesses that have not already submitted one. Every effort will be made to process the applications as quickly as possible, which could mean many more retailers could be included in on the launch day.

To download a retailer application packet or get additional information about the N.C. Education Lottery, visit its Web site at www.lottery.nc.gov, or call 919/715-6886 (71-LOTTO).

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